

not only natural resource and environmental protection, but to also promote economic development and the protection of our historical, cultural, and recreational resources.

In my own State of Maryland, and throughout the entire Potomac watershed, a broad coalition of local governments, private citizens, businesses, and others, known as the Friends of the Potomac, has mounted a concerted effort to nominate the Potomac. This coalition is striving to make "Our Nation's River" one of the first 10 designated American heritage rivers, and I fully support and encourage their efforts.

Mr. President, the American heritage rivers initiative is simply an effort to better coordinate and leverage existing Federal resources. The Council on Environmental Quality, participating agencies and departments already have congressionally provided authority and responsibility to carry out this program. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.●

THE 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KSEN RADIO STATION IN SHELBY, MT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the KSEN radio station in Shelby, MT, for 50 years of service to the Golden Triangle area in north central Montana.

As a former broadcaster, I applaud KSEN for the valuable service they provide to the Shelby area, especially to the agricultural community. KSEN works hard to provide the area with farm and market reports, weather, local news, and sports broadcasting as well as national programs. KSEN radio is a very important tool for the area's farmers and ranchers.

KSEN radio has won more broadcasting awards than any other station in Montana and is the smallest market in the United States to receive the Crystal Award from the National Association of Broadcasters for its outstanding public service.

Congratulations to Mr. Jerry Black and the staff at KSEN radio in Shelby, MT, for a fabulous 50 years of service to our great State.●

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I want to pay tribute to an important institution in the Wisconsin State Legislature on its 50th anniversary: the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

The legislative council was created as a joint committee of the State legislature in 1947, charged with convening special committees each biennium to study the more complex, controversial or sometimes tedious but necessary legislative issues, and to develop legislative solutions. The unique aspect of the council's directive has been to identify and appoint knowledgeable Wisconsin citizens to work alongside

legislators to craft bills, often recodifying whole chapters of the statutes at a time.

The Wisconsin Legislative Council is derived from the same Wisconsin Idea, fostered by the Progressives in the early part of this century, that created the Congressional Research Service. Senator "Fighting Bob" LaFollette saw the importance of having non-partisan, professional staff provide research, analysis and bill-drafting to legislative bodies. The Wisconsin version, which has been the model for many other State legislatures, further improves on the concept by setting up a mechanism for open discussion and citizen participation directly in the development of legislative solutions in subjects selected by a bicameral body every 2 years.

Since its inception, the joint legislative council has overseen 426 individual studies, conducted by not only State legislators but also including over 6,000 Wisconsin citizens as full voting members of committees. These committees are staffed by the legislative council staff under the direction of the joint legislative council. These nonpartisan professional staff members further support the work of the legislature by staffing committees, providing research and analysis to individual legislators and their staff, and performing a technical review of all proposed State regulations.

Many of the members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation have had the experience of serving on legislative council committees—I served on three, once as chairman of a study committee reviewing laws on interstate sales and use taxes.

On its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to pay tribute to Wisconsin's Joint Legislative Council and the dedication of the legislative council staff. May they continue their service to the state for many years to come.●

DAVID SCHMELTZER

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a truly outstanding, dedicated public servant—David Schmeltzer. Dave is retiring from the Federal Government after 35 years of service, including 25 years at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, where he is the Director of the Office of Compliance. Over the years I have been fortunate to have gotten to know Dave personally. A native New Yorker, he received a bachelor of arts degree from Long Island University in 1957. He attended Brooklyn Law School with my dear friend Larry Elovich, and became a member of the New York Bar after graduating in 1960. I want to wish Dave, his wife Louise, and their son Daniel and his family the best of luck on this happy occasion.

David Schmeltzer has had a truly remarkable career in Federal service. I am unaware of anyone with Dave's experience and knowledge when it comes to product safety regulation and en-

forcement. At the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in addition to his current position as Director of the Office of Compliance, Dave has served as both Deputy General Counsel and Acting General Counsel. Before joining the Commission in 1973—at its inception, I should note—Dave served as the Assistant Chief Counsel for Enforcement and Administrative Law with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He has also served as the Vice Chairman for the International Consumer Health and Safety Organization Symposium [ICPHSO] and is presently on ICPHSO's executive committee.

While the list of Government positions Dave has held is quite impressive, it does not begin to measure his contributions in improving product safety for all Americans of all ages, from infants to our seniors. Dave has never been someone who has ducked the tough calls, and he has been willing to take the heat for doing so when many others would have run away. He has always been fair and balanced in exercising his judgment, a real straight shooter. The results speak for themselves. On behalf of those consumers who have been spared the pain of a loss or devastating injury to a child or other loved one, I want to thank Dave Schmeltzer for his years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors.●

COMMEMORATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the sixth anniversary of Armenian Independence.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenians were quickly faced with the possibility of realizing a vision which they had long sought—independence. On September 21, 1991, Armenia held a referendum to decide its future. More than 94 percent of Armenia's eligible voters turned out to support independence. Two days later, on September 23, the Armenian Parliament made the people's desire official when it declared Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union.

The historic vote for independence on September 21, 1991, has far greater significance when examined in light of Armenia's modern history. Throughout the last century, the Armenian people have experienced incredible hardship and tragedy in their efforts to rule themselves. Armenia began the 20th century under the control of the Ottoman Turks. Ottoman Turk rule turned savage at the beginning of World War I when it waged a government-organized genocide on the Armenians. During the Armenian Genocide of 1915–23, 1.5 million people perished as the Ottoman Turks tried to permanently silence Armenian calls for independence.

Following the defeat of the Ottoman Turks in World War I, Armenians were able to briefly fulfill their wishes of independence. On May 28, 1918, the Republic of Armenia was established.

However, this independence was short-lived as the Republic of Armenia soon collapsed because of renewed Turkish and Soviet pressure. On November 29, 1920, Armenia was declared a Soviet republic and spent the next 71 years under Soviet rule. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia was finally able to fulfill its goal of self-determination.

Today, September 23, Armenia celebrates the sixth anniversary of its independence. I know that the many Armenian-Americans in Michigan and the United States join in this celebration. The support Armenian-Americans have given to their homeland has been indispensable as Armenia emerges from many years of Soviet domination. I applaud their efforts and the efforts of the Armenian people to build an independent and democratic Armenia.●

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR LEGAL REFORM NOW

● Mr. GORTON. A jury in New Orleans the other week issued a clarion call for legal reform. A monstrous judgment against CSX Transportation and four other companies illustrates once again the arbitrary and perverse nature of our current tort system.

Mr. President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a \$2.5 billion punitive damage award against CSX Transportation stemming from a 1987 chemical-car fire in the New Orleans neighborhood of Gentilly. Even in the context of our current broken legal system, this one is shocking. The jury awarded \$2.5 billion, out of a total punitive damage award of \$3.4 billion, against CSXT, Mr. President, despite the fact that Federal experts had determined that CSX was not at fault; despite the fact that the jury did not allocate any significant portion of the compensatory damages to CSXT; despite the fact that actual compensatory damages awarded to date in the case are only \$2 million; and despite the fact that the accident resulted in no deaths, no serious injuries, and no significant property damage.

Comparisons made in a New Orleans Times Picayune article put the total punitive damage award into perspective, warped as it is. Consider that the punitive damage award in this case is seven times the amount Union Carbide paid to settle a claim relating to a chemical leak in Bhopal, India, that killed 4,000 people and injured 300,000. Despite only minor property damage, this award is two-thirds of the punitive damage award against Exxon for the environmentally devastating spill that occurred in Alaska in 1989.

Let me set out the facts of the case as I understand them from the press accounts. On September 9, 1987, a railroad tank car containing butadiene, a volatile compound used in making synthetic rubber, was located in a rail yard in New Orleans on tracks that belonged to CSXT. Due to a faulty gasket, the contents of the car leaked and

the car caught fire. Local officials determined that the best approach was to let the fire burn itself out. To avoid harm to nearby residents, authorities ordered the evacuation of those living near the yard. Many people were inconvenienced, but although there are 8,000 people in the plaintiff class, only 2,300 people claim to have been located within the evacuation zone, and contemporary estimates of how many people were actually evacuated put the number at about 1,000.

One year after the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal agency that investigates transportation accidents, determined that a misaligned gasket and other factors, not involving CSXT, had caused the accident. In fact, other than providing the track on which the train car was placed, CSXT had no connection to the car. CSXT did not own or repair the tank car, and it did not transport the car.

Significantly, even though the NTSB determined that CSTX had not caused the accident, the jury held CSXT 15 percent responsible for the \$2 million on compensatory damages that have been awarded to 20 plaintiffs at this time. The remaining plaintiffs will have to prove their damages in separate proceedings. Though it seems unfair that CSXT would be responsible for any compensatory damages if it was not at fault, it is unspeakably outrageous that CSXT would be assessed over 75 percent of the punitive damages, and only 15 percent of the compensatory damages.

How can it be that a Federal agency determines that a company has no responsibility for causing an accident and yet this huge verdict is awarded? The answer, unfortunately, is that our tort system is broken. The case in New Orleans is the latest, though perhaps most egregious, example of why we have to reform our civil justice system, to place some reasonable limit on punitive damage awards, to modify the laws regarding joint and several liability, and to provide disincentives for lawyers to go after the "deep pockets," simply because they're there.

CSXT is a big corporation, but that should not be reason to impose huge penalties on it, penalties that could affect its thousands of employees, thousands of middle-class stockholders who own shares in the company through their pension plans, and everyone who uses its vital transportation facilities. Until we undertake meaningful legal reform, we will continue to disadvantage businesses and consumers, stunt career opportunities, breed contempt for the law, and do injustice.●

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRUMBULL, CT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, located in the hilly country of southwestern Connecticut in the watershed of the Pequonnock River is the quaint residential community of Trumbull. De-

spite its proximity to many highly industrialized cities, Trumbull has been able to preserve its small-town New England character and charm, and this year the town of Trumbull will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

The Trumbull area was permanently settled in 1690, and in the following years families began migrating to this secluded wilderness region, building mills, churches, and schools. In 1725, the settlement officially became the village of Unity, and this village was eventually absorbed by the larger community of North Stratford. Nearly a century after it was settled, the residents began the petition process for independence from North Stratford, and in 1797, the general assembly granted this request, established town bounds, and declared that this area shall forever be a distinct town known by the name of "Trumbull."

The town was named after one of the most respected families in Connecticut history, the Trumbulls of Lebanon, CT. The family's patriarch, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., was the first of four "Governor Trumbulls" in Connecticut. He was a close ally of George Washington, and he was the only colonial Governor to support the Revolution. In recognition of his contributions to his State and his country, a statue of Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., currently stands in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

His son, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., also had an illustrious career as an early American statesman. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he served as Speaker of the House. He also represented the State as a U.S. Senator and was elected Connecticut's governor in 1797, shortly after the town of Trumbull was incorporated.

In addition, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.'s youngest child, John, was one of the most noteworthy American artists known for painting important historical events. Today, four of his paintings hang in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, his most famous being "The Surrender of Cornwallis."

While the namesakes for this town were truly heroic individuals, the many generations of Trumbull residents who have settled this town and shepherded its evolution over the years are equally heroic in their own right. They met the crises of their times. They worked hard to ensure a promising future for their children. They lent a helping hand to their neighbors when they were in need. They did all of the things that are necessary to sustain a community and help it develop into a wonderful place to live.

Today, Trumbull is a vibrant residential community which is dedicated to the preservation of its family-oriented atmosphere. Its schools are among the best in the State and the Parent-Teachers Association is very active. There are places of worship for more than a dozen different religions, strengthening the fabric of the community and adding to its diversity. More